



March 2011

Dear Lunenburg Family:

We are writing to you to ask for your help in eliminating illegal off-road recreational vehicle (OHV, also called ATV) use on the Town's Conservation lands. Your family lives close to or abuts conservation land, and so you may have a particular interest in the stewardship and health of the area.

A new Massachusetts state law* makes it illegal for motorized vehicles to be on these lands. OHV/ATV use threatens the viability of our forests and trails, and their inappropriate use detracts from experience of passive recreation users.

The Conservation Commission, in cooperation with our local police, the State Environmental Police, and the Town of Shirley, has begun a program to monitor the trails and gather evidence that will ultimately be used in the identification and prosecution of these trespassing OHV's.

If you see OHV's on Conservation land, please call the Lunenburg police at 978-582-4150, or the Conservation Commission at 978-582-4146, x 8, with the time, date, and approximate location. This information will be logged and used in guiding or monitoring efforts.

The Commission encourages and welcomes the public to use Conservation Land for the following activities:

- Bird watching
- Natural sound-scape appreciation;
- Hunting in accordance with the Conservation Commissions policy, State law and town bylaws
- Cross country skiing and snowshoeing;
- Dog walking (under restraint);
- Environmental education;
- Horse riding;
- Walking and hiking;
- Trail running;
- Night Sky Observations;
- Bicycling (non-motorized) on marked bike paths only;
- Nature Study;
- Photography, sketching and painting;
- Other general passive public recreational uses (exercise, Tai Chi, and the like).

*Please see <http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dle/ohvpamphlet.pdf>. State parks and forests that permit OHV use are here: www.mass.gov/dcr/recreate/orv.htm.

Thank you for your cooperation and good land stewardship.